



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/788107
Applicant: M. Shimodaira et al.
Filed: 2/20/04
TC/A. U. : 1771
Examiner: E. Cole
Docket No. : KIN98USA
Customer No. 00270

Confirmation No: 7687

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

I, the undersigned, being hereby warned that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified application, or any patent granted thereon, declare:

1. I am one of the four inventors of the subject matter claimed in the above-identified patent application.

2. The invention was conceived by the four inventors during the interval between October 1, 2001 and November 27, 2001, and reduced to practice during the interval between October 1, 2001 and November 30, 2002.

3. I personally know Mr. Kazumasa Watanabe, and have known him since approximately August 20, 1989.

4. During the entire interval between October 20, 2001 and November 20, 2002, the four inventors, Masufumi Shimodaira, Hiroyuki Oda, Akira Onikubo, and I, as well as Mr. Kazumasa Watanabe, were all employed by Ichikawa Co., Ltd., and were under an obligation to assign to Ichikawa Co., Ltd. all inventions relating to papermaking press felts.

5. We, the four inventors, pursuant to the above-mentioned obligation, assigned our rights in the invention of the subject patent application to Ichikawa Co., Ltd. on February 16, 2004.

6. On information and belief, as of October 1, 2001, Mr. Kazumasa Watanabe had already assigned, to Ichikawa Co., Ltd., all rights to the invention described in his U.S. application 10/237,890, and, since the assignment by Mr. Watanabe, to the present time, the invention of application 10/237,890 has remained solely owned by Ichikawa Co., Ltd.

7. I am experienced in the design of papermaking felts, and have knowledge of the level of ordinary skill in the art of papermaking felt design.

8. Paragraphs 0039 and 0074 of patent application 10/783107 erroneously use a colon (:) where the symbol μ , for micron, that is, 10^{-6} m, was intended. I did not notice this error when I signed the declaration.

9. The table in FIG. 12 of the application, correctly uses the symbol μ in connection with the same data to which the examples in paragraph 0074 pertain.

10. A person having ordinary skill in the art of papermaking felt design, reading patent application 10/783107 as a whole, would readily recognize that the colons in paragraph 0074 should have been the symbol μ , especially in view of the table of FIG. 12. That person having ordinary skill would also readily recognize that the thickness range of 20 to 50:m in paragraph 0039 must mean 20 to 50 μ m for two reasons. First, it is apparent from FIG. 12 and paragraph 0074 that : was intended to mean μ . Second, the examples in paragraph 0074 specify a thickness of 25 μ , which the person of ordinary skill would presume to be within a desirable range. The range of 20 to 50, which is described in paragraph 0039 as the desirable range for the thickness of the anti-rewetting layer, overlap 25 μ when : is understood to mean μ .

11. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made herein on information and belief are believed to be true.

Yasuhiko Kobayashi
Yasuhiko Kobayashi

Date: January 26, 2006